

Aesop Fable: Filbert, the Not So Smart Fox

Teaching your kids morals through storytelling



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Filbert liked when his grandma read him interesting stories. One day she read him one of Aesop's fable about the smartest fox he had ever heard about.

"...and then, the clever fox praised the crow so much for her singing that she had to show off. But the minute she opened her mouth to sing, the cheese dropped out and fell to the ground where the sly fox got it.



"That was all I wanted-", said Fox.- In exchange for your cheese, I will now give you a piece of advice for the future. Do not trust flatterers."

"Who are flatterers, Grandma?" Filbert asked.

"People who speak nice things to you to get something from you, but they do not mean what they say."



When she finished reading the story, Grandma made Filbert his favorite jam sandwich and sent him to play outside.



He was still thinking about the clever fox in the fable. He was sure that foxes were able to cheat anybody and get away with it because they were the smartest animals around. Knowing this made Filbert a very happy young fox.



His friend, Willie Wolf joined him in the garden. Filbert couldn't wait to share the story of the clever fox with him.

But Willie was hungry. Filbert's sandwich looked delicious, just the way he liked it.

He started thinking. "What can I do to get it from him?"

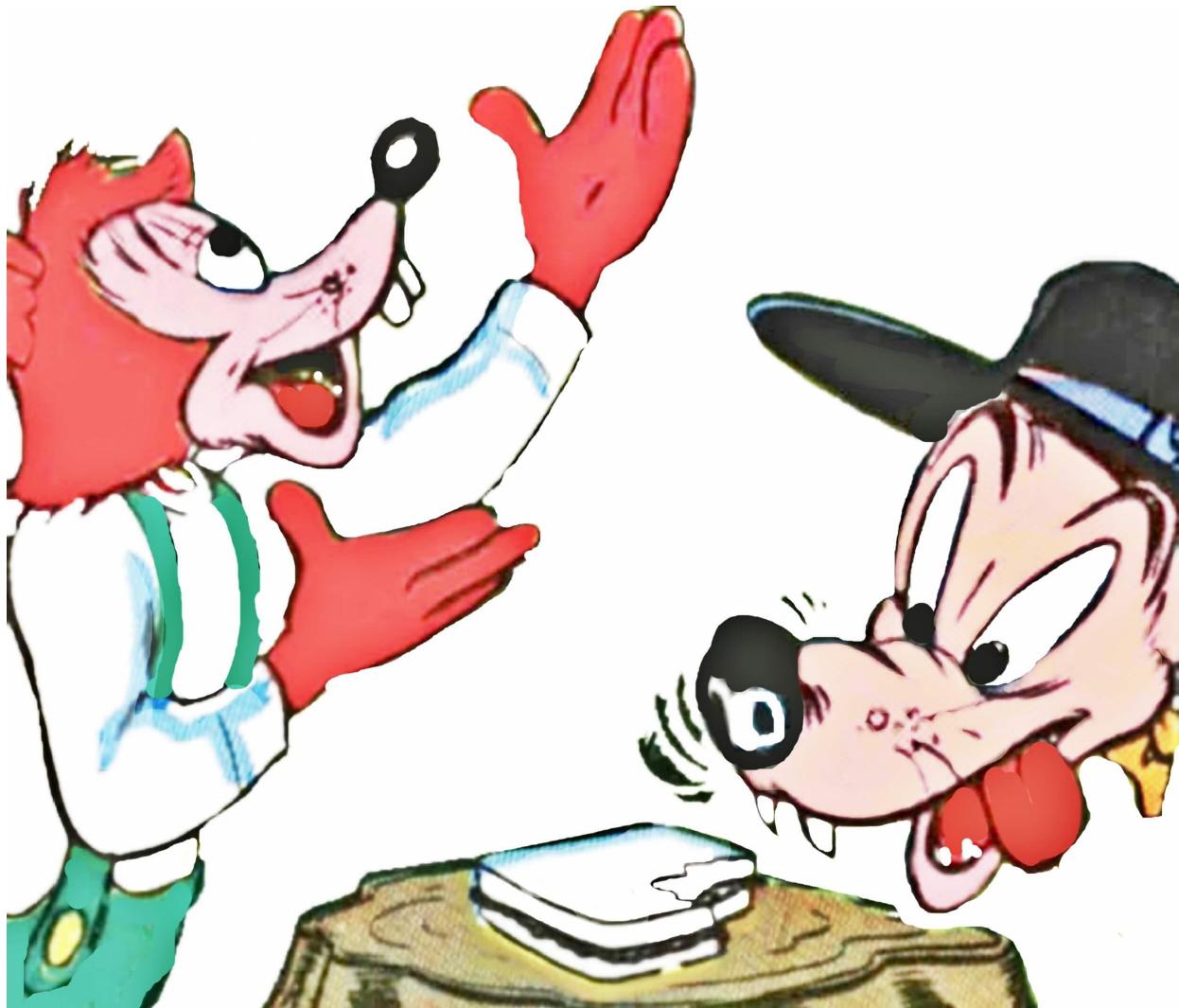
Then the wolf had an idea. "I will flatter and while he is listening and not paying close attention, I will get the sandwich."



My dad often told me that if you want to get something from someone, just flatter them or ask them to talk about themselves. Then they become careless and you can get anything you want.

Let me see if it works.

“Filbert, tell me, what’s the story about that clever fox?”



Filbert was feeling very proud to share the story to show Willie how foxes were clever.

“Well, there was a crow that had a piece of cheese in its beak, and the fox wanted to get that cheese. Understand?”

Willie thought, “Okay. Let’s try it the wolf’s way: agree and ask again.”

So he said to Filbert:

“You don’t say! Did he get it?”



"So the fox knew he couldn't make the crow give him the cheese, because the crow was way up into the tree. So he told the crow what a good singer she was. She was so proud to hear this, that she opened her mouth to sing and the cheese fell out and the fox ate it. See?"

"Oh, really?" said Willie. "This is really impressive."

He had two more bites to go so he had to think fast what else to say so Filbert would not see what he was doing.



"That was certainly a fine trick, Filbert! So what did you learn from that?" asked Willie.

He hoped this question would keep Filbert talking long enough to let him finish eating the sandwich.

"Oh! I learned that we foxes are the cleverest animals. Did you know that? My grandpa was clever, my uncle was the best, and in the fable, the fox outsmarted the crow! Nobody can outsmart me. Never!"



"Well, Filbert, I've got have to go now. I have to meet a friend down by the river. So long! You are really clever guy!"

Willie was really happy. He was able to eat that delicious sandwich! It looked like his dad's advice really worked!



Filbert said goodbye and started looking around for his sandwich.

Where on earth was it?

"O boy! It looks like Willie was able to take my attention away from it while we were talking, and then he ate it. What a cheat!"

I should have kept an eye on my belongings. Well, now I know this. But we foxes are very clever creatures. I am going to find a way to get food today!"



Very soon, Filbert came upon the Crow family. They were sitting on a tree branch and Mrs. Crow had an egg in her beak.

Now was a perfect time to show what he learned from the fable.

He smiled nicely and said, "Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Crow! Nice to see you. How are you today? "

"We're fine, thank you. How do you do, Filbert? "



"Now's my chance to show how clever a fox I can be!" Filbert said to himself.
"I'll make her talk, and when she opens her beak...I'll get it. Heh! Heh!"



“Where are you going, Mrs. Crow?”



"We are moving to our new nest and we're carrying our last egg there now. Our old landlord wanted to raise our rent," Mr. Crow politely replied.



Shucks! My first attempt didn't work! Why didn't he let Mrs. Crow answer the question? I'll have to try again.

Filbert put on his sweetest voice and asked again, "Where are you moving to, Mrs. Crow?"



Mr. Crow answered again, "We've found a nice place near the river... very reasonable too. And they don't allow woodpeckers in! Those birds keep the tenants awake all night."



Filbert wanted to scream. "Why does he keep on answering? I've got to make her talk. I know what I'll do. I'll use a trick like the fox in the story my granny told me. But instead, I'll try to make her angry so she'll talk. We foxes are truly clever!"



So he looked up at the two crows and said, "I hope you picked a place where the neighbors won't mind Mrs. Crow's awful singing!"



Mrs. Crow gasped and said, "Why, Filbert Fox, you ought to be ashamed of your..."



“Ooh! My egg!”



Filbert laughed to himself. "It worked! Am I not smart? Heh! Heh!"



"Oh no! I was not looking up to catch it. What a shame"

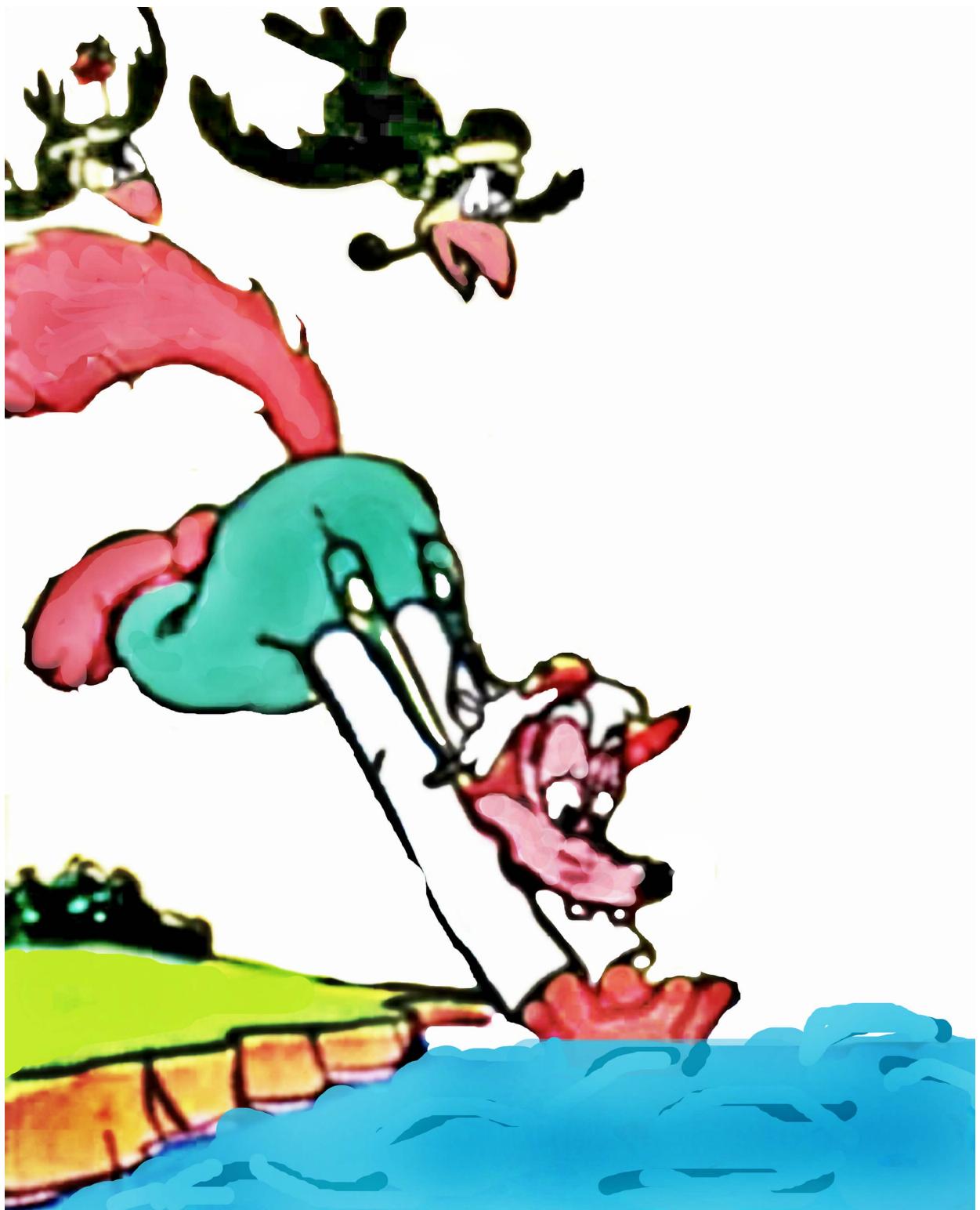


The Crows were angry. That was their last egg. They both turned on Filbert and started to peck him very hard. It really hurt and from what he could remember, no one had attacked the fox in the fable.

Filbert began to cry for help. "Ouch! Help! That hurts. Stop, please!"

He ran away screaming loudly.





Then he came to the river.

“Gosh! How I hate baths, but I have to take one now to get away from these crows.”



When the crows were gone, he came back up out of the river.

“What a day!” he said.



“But I learned some important things, today.
Always keep your eye on your belongings.
Do not trust people who tell you nice things but don’t mean it.
Think before you act and, sometimes, learning hurts! “
Don’t you agree? What is your experience? Share it with me, please!
Let’s learn together these important lessons.



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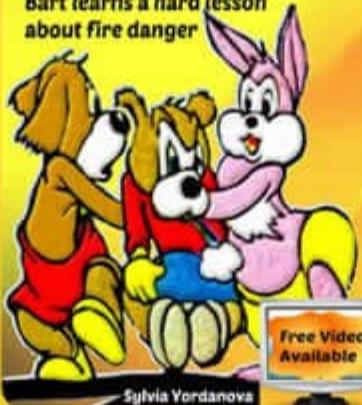


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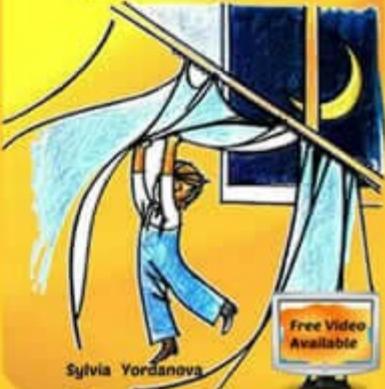


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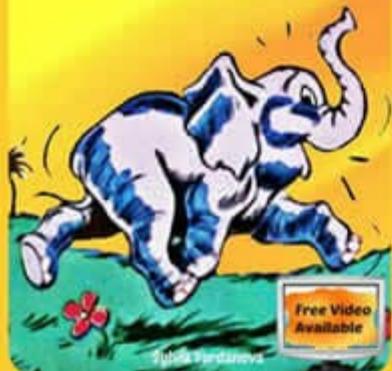


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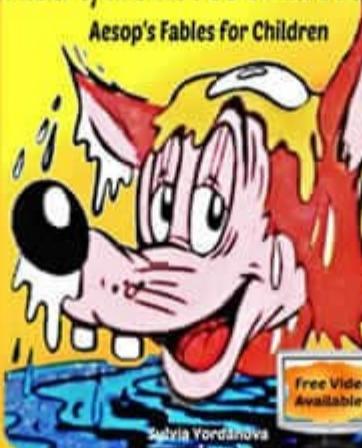


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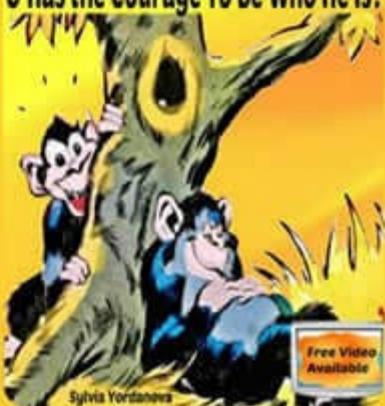
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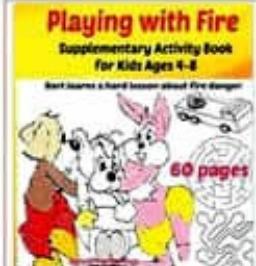
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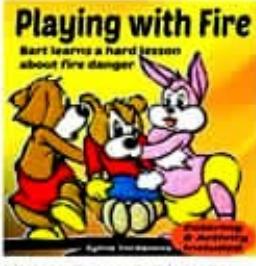
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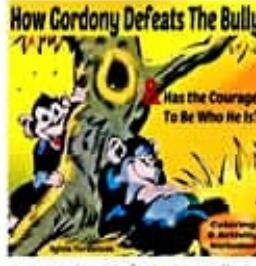
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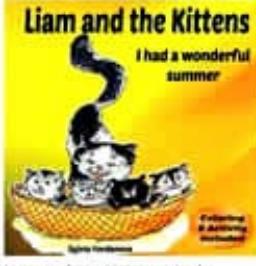
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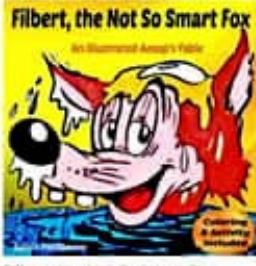
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About the Author

Sylvia Yordanova lives in UK, USA and in Europe. She is a mother, grandmother and animal's lover and self-published children's picture book author. She is someone who has dedicated her entire life to children. Always looking for ways to help children learn how to better interact with the world around them, she is committed to ensuring safety and growth among kids between the ages of 4 and 8, knowing that kids are our future and striving to protect them and lend them a hand in any way that she can. Every book has a valuable lesson and invites parents to start a discussion with kids about their personal experience.

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